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incubation
incubation period

Main Entry: **in·cu·ba·tion**

Pronunciation: ,ɪˈbāʃən

Function: *noun*

Inflected Form(s): -s

Etymology: Latin *incubation-*, *incubatio*, from *incubatus* + *-ion-*, *-io -ion*

1 : the act or process of incubating (as eggs, bacteria, or milk) <during the *incubation* of the culture>

2 : the act or an instance of brooding over something in order to give it form and substance

<definitely named the four stages of creative thought as preparation, *incubation*, illumination, and verification -- R.S. Woodworth>

3 : the period between the infection of a plant or animal by a pathogen and the manifestation of the disease it causes

4 : a rite among the ancient Greeks and Romans of sleeping on a skin or on the ground in order to enter into communion with the chthonic gods through dreams

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EXHIBIT B